

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for managing applications service provider (ASP) transactions between an ASP and an ASP user, comprising:

receiving an ASP transaction request from said user via a communications network;  
selecting an ASP for processing said transaction request; and  
transmitting instructions for performing said transaction request, via said communications network, to said selected ASP.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of receiving an ASP transaction request comprises receiving a user identifier from said user, said method further comprising:

determining whether a document profile exists for said user identifier received; and  
sending to said user a document manager interface screen based on said determination of whether a document profile exists.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of determining whether a document profile exists comprises determining that a document profile does exist by locating a document profile associated with said user identifier in a memory which is local to a processing device which performs the step of determining whether a document profile exists.

4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said step of sending a document manager interface screen comprises sending an interface screen including a document profile menu that lists said document profile located in said memory.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising receiving a document profile selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document profile menu.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said step of selecting an ASP comprises selecting a basic ASP using said document profile selection received.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein said step of selecting a basic ASP comprises:  
determining a document type using the document profile selection received; and  
selecting said basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type.

8. The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of determining whether a document profile exists comprises determining that a document profile does not exist by searching a memory which is local to a processing device which performs the step of determining

whether a document profile exists.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said step of sending a document manager interface screen comprises sending an interface screen including a document type menu.

10. The method of Claim 9, further comprising receiving a document type selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document type menu.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said step of selecting an ASP comprises selecting a basic ASP that performs typical services utilized with said document type selection received.

12. The method of Claim 10, further comprising:

creating a document profile based on said document type selection received; and  
storing said document profile in association with a user identifier in a local memory.

13. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of receiving an ASP transaction request comprises receiving a document consultation request from said user.

14. The method of Claim 13, further comprising:

sending, in response to receiving said document consultation request, a document manager interface screen including a document type menu to said user via said communications network;

generating a document type selection from a user input to said document type menu;  
and

receiving said document type selection via said communications network.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein said step of selecting an ASP comprises selecting a basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type selection received.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

creating a document profile based on said document type selection received; and  
storing said document profile in association with a user identifier in a memory.

17. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of selecting an ASP comprises selecting a special service ASP for providing special services independently offered by an ASP.

18. The method of Claim 17, wherein said step of selecting a special service ASP

comprises:

receiving a request for a special service from said user via said communications network; and

locating in a memory, a special ASP associated with the special service request received.

19. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of receiving an ASP transaction request from said user and transmitting instructions for performing said transaction requested comprise transferring data via the Internet.

20. A computer readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a computer system, which when executed by the computer system, cause the computer system to perform the steps recited in any one of Claims 1-19.

21. A system comprising:

a memory device having embodied therein, data related to managing applications service provider (ASP) transactions between an ASP and an ASP user; and

a processor in communication with said memory device, said processor configured to:

receive an ASP transaction request from said user via a communications network;  
select an ASP for processing said transaction request; and  
transmit instructions for performing said transaction request, via said communications network, to said selected ASP.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to receive an ASP transaction request by receiving a user identifier from said user, said processor being further configured to::

determine whether a document profile exists for said user identifier received; and  
send to said user a document manager interface screen based on said determination of whether a document profile exists.

23. The system of Claim 22, wherein said processor is configured to determine whether a document profile exists by determining that a document profile does exist by locating a document profile associated with said user identifier in a memory which is local to a processing device which performs the step of determining whether a document profile exists.

24. The system of Claim 23, wherein said processor is configured to send a document manager interface screen by sending an interface screen including a document profile menu that lists said document profile located in said memory.

25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said processor is further configured to receive a document profile selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document profile menu.

26. The system of Claim 25, wherein said processor is configured to select an ASP by selecting a basic ASP using said document profile selection received.

27. The system of Claim 26, wherein said processor is configured to select a basic ASP by:

determining a document type using the document profile selection received; and  
selecting said basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type.

28. The system of Claim 22, wherein said processor is configured to determine whether a document profile exists by determining that a document profile does not exist by searching a memory

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein said processor is configured to send a document manager interface screen by sending an interface screen including a document type menu.

30. The system of Claim 29, wherein said processor is further configured to receive a document type selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document type menu.

31. The system of Claim 30, wherein said processor is configured to select an ASP by selecting a basic ASP that performs typical services utilized with said document type selection received.

32. The system of Claim 30, wherein said processor is further configured to:  
create a document profile based on said document type selection received; and  
store said document profile in association with a user identifier in said memory.

33. The system of Claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to receive an ASP transaction request by receiving a document consultation request from said user.

34. The system of Claim 33, wherein said processor is further configured to:  
send, in response to receiving said document consultation request, a document manager interface screen including a document type menu to said user via said

communications network;

generate a document type selection from a user input to said document type menu;

and

receive said document type selection via said communications network.

35. The system of Claim 34, wherein said processor is configured to select an ASP by selecting a basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type selection received.

36. The system of Claim 35, wherein said processor is further configured to:

create a document profile based on said document type selection received; and

store said document profile in association with a user identifier in a memory.

37. The system of Claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to select an ASP by selecting a special service ASP for providing special services independently offered by an ASP.

38. The system of Claim 37, wherein said processor is configured to select a special service ASP by:

receiving a request for a special service from said user via said communications network; and

locating in a memory, a special ASP associated with the special service request received.

39. The system of Claim 21, wherein said processor is configured to receive an ASP transaction request from said user and transmit instructions for performing said transaction requested comprise transferring data via the Internet.

40. A system for managing applications service provider (ASP) transactions between an ASP and an ASP user, comprising:

means for receiving an ASP transaction request from said user via a communications network;

means for selecting an ASP for processing said transaction request; and

means for transmitting instructions for performing said transaction request, via said communications network, to said selected ASP.

41. The system of Claim 40, wherein said means for receiving an ASP transaction request comprises receiving a user identifier from said user, said system further comprising:

means for determining whether a document profile exists for said user identifier received; and

means for sending to said user a document manager interface screen based on said determination of whether a document profile exists.

42. The system of Claim 41, wherein said means for determining whether a document profile exists comprises means for determining that a document profile does exist by locating a document profile associated with said user identifier in a memory which is local to a processing device which performs the step of determining whether a document profile exists.

43. The system of Claim 42, wherein said means for sending a document manager interface screen comprises means for sending an interface screen including a document profile menu that lists said document profile located in said memory.

44. The system of Claim 43, further comprising means for receiving a document profile selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document profile menu.

45. The method of Claim 44, wherein said step of selecting an ASP comprises selecting a basic ASP using said document profile selection received.

46. The system of Claim 45, wherein said means for selecting a basic ASP comprises:

means for determining a document type using the document profile selection received; and

means for selecting said basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type.

47. The system of Claim 41, wherein said means for determining whether a document profile exists comprises means for determining that a document profile does not exist by searching a memory which is local to a processing device which performs the step of determining whether a document profile exists.

48. The system of Claim 47, wherein said means for sending a document manager interface screen comprises means for sending an interface screen including a document type menu.

49. The system of Claim 48, further comprising means for receiving a document type

selection from said user via said communications network based on a user input to said document type menu.

50. The system of Claim 49, wherein said means for selecting an ASP comprises means for selecting a basic ASP that performs typical services utilized with said document type selection received.

51. The system of Claim 49, further comprising:  
means for creating a document profile based on said document type selection received; and  
means for storing said document profile in association with a user identifier in a local memory.

52. The system of Claim 40, wherein said means for receiving an ASP transaction request comprises means for receiving a document consultation request from said user.

53. The system of Claim 52, further comprising:  
means for sending, in response to receiving said document consultation request, a document manager interface screen including a document type menu to said user via said communications network;  
means for generating a document type selection from a user input to said document type menu; and  
means for receiving said document type selection via said communications network.

54. The system of Claim 53, wherein said means for selecting an ASP comprises means for selecting a basic ASP that performs services utilized with said document type selection received.

55. The system of Claim 54, further comprising:  
means for creating a document profile based on said document type selection received; and  
means for storing said document profile in association with a user identifier in a memory.